

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Atty Docket No. 47508-423; Client Docket No. 259.0 US)

Serial No.: 09/283,431)
Filed: 1 April 1999)
Inventors: Agrawal *et al.*)
Title: MIXED BACKBONE OLIGO-)
NUCLEOTIDES CONTAINING)
POPS BLOCKS TO OBTAIN)
REDUCED PHOSPHOROTHIO-)
ATE CONTENT)

Group Art Unit: 1635
Before the Examiner:

8/a
M.G.J.
4/19/00

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



APPLICANTS' REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed 13 October 1999. This reply is accompanied by a petition for a three month extension of time. Grant of this petition makes this reply due 13 April 2000. Please re-consider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments

Please cancel claims 1-3. Please add the following new claims 4-6:

subC17 - 4. A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more POPS block flanked by one or more region of 2'-O-substituted nucleosides.

5. The oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 12 to 50 nucleotides.

a 6. The oligonucleotide according to claim 5, having from 17 to 35 nucleotides. --